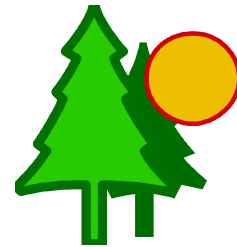


# NEWAC

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*A partnership with the counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis, and the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District.*

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January 11, 2010

## **Call to Order**

Chair Raukar called the NEWAC meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. at the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, Duluth, Minnesota. Everyone introduced themselves.

## **Present:**

Terry Neff – Aitkin County; *Thomas Proulx*, Bruce Benson – Carlton County; *Bruce Martinson*, Tim Nelson – Cook County; Doug Morris – Crow Wing County; Shannon Judd – Fond Du Lac Reservation; Mary Jo Davis – Itasca County; Dale Olson, *Wade Pavleck* – Koochiching County; *Thomas Clifford*, Rich Sve, – Lake County; Tim Farnan, Johanna Kertesz, Cathy Moeger, Mark Rust – MPCA; Diane Hildreth, *Steve Raukar*, Terry Soderberg, Peg Sweeney, Ted Troolin - St. Louis County; Dan Belden, Jack Ezell, Brandon Kohlts, Tim Lundell, *Bill Majewski*, Heidi Ringhofer - WLSSD

*\*\*names in italics indicate voting members*

## **Approval of NEWAC Minutes – July 13, 2009 and October 12, 2009**

Upon motion by Commissioner Pavleck and second by Commissioner Proulx, the minutes of the July 13, 2009 and October 12, 2009, meetings were approved.

**Financial Report** - Bruce Benson, Carlton County handed out a copy of the October 13, 2009, thru January 11, 2010 financial report. There has been no financial activity. The current balance is \$1,192.34. Upon motion by Commissioner Martinson, and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, the financial report was approved as presented.

## **Current Business:**

Ted Troolin updated the group on the 2010 legislative session items. Troolin expects this legislative session to be mainly budget focused. Upcoming legislative items may include financial assurance requirements, storm water activities, SCORE funding, container deposit legislation, and simplifying the solid waste designation process. Manufacturers' responsibility and increased target numbers for recycled e-waste were discussed by the group. Currently, most counties are paying fifteen cents per pound to recycle e-waste. Troolin informed the group that MPCA staff recently made a presentation regarding bonding for additional funding for the solid waste capital assistance program. NEWAC will be tracking this bonding request.

## **MPCA Program Updates:**

Mark Rust updated the group on the MPCA stakeholder process. The MPCA has formed an eight person team to provide technical assistance to counties in greater Minnesota. This team will aid in the implementation and advancement of a specific and limited amount of programs that focus primarily on waste reduction, reuse, recycling and organics. There is a two year time frame to get programs implemented with measurable results. The challenges for the group will be how the MPCA can help focus resources in areas that are going to be mutually beneficial and funding. The MPCA has a 6% budget reduction in all areas of state grant funding for 2010. Counties should not expect to see any increases in funding, but sustain what programs they have and address issues and meet goals to move solid waste programs forward. Rust will send out information to the group outlining the framework of these projects as it becomes available. Discussion from the group on unfunded state mandates, obtaining funding resources, and developing partnerships followed. A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Majewski to send a letter from NEWAC to MPCA Commissioner Paul Eger with a focus on exempting cuts in SCORE funding and Household Hazardous Waste

monies. The MPCA will meet with the Solid Waste Officers of the Northeast Region (SWONER) to continue discussions on the stakeholder process at the February 22<sup>nd</sup> SWONER meeting.

Mark Rust spoke to the group the Financial Assurance Siting Rules (FASIT). The report is due to the legislature on January 15<sup>th</sup> and will outline preliminary recommendations and show draft rule language. The next step for the MPCA will be to move forward and finalize writing the rules and getting the rules published. Discussion about the groundwater sensitivity rule followed. Counties have concerns about some facilities in the state which have been operating for years that may no longer meet the new variances and will have to close. Also, Counties for see spending large amounts of money to pay for variances due to the MPCA changing the permitting process to every five years. This could have dramatic affects on existing landfills. Counties with smaller demolition sites around the state feel they will not be able to afford to keep the facilities open. Counties will need to get together to discuss this issue in greater detail before the rules are formed. Demolition waste management rules will be added as an agenda item at the April NEWAC meeting.

Commissioner Pavleck introduced Dale Olson who will be replacing Richard Lehtinen in Koochiching County.

Heidi Kroenning updated the group on the Demolition Waste Management Rule. The MPCA is looking at drafting new requirements for ground water sensitivity and criteria for existing lined and unlined landfills that could potentially impact all landfills. The MPCA will include recommendations from Counties when modifying the demolition permit by rule requirements. The main issue is rapid and unpredictable water flow. The MPCA has a list of all facilities in the state and has determined that only a limited amount of landfills would be dramatically affected by the proposed criteria.

Heidi Kroening updated the group on the stormwater rules. MPCA staff presented the stormwater rules at the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) conference in December. Kroening stated that the MPCA has proposed language that alleviated concerns in regards to transfer station recycling. MPCA staff will be having ongoing discussions with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on this state mandated permit.

Doug Morris, Crow Wing County reported to the group on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) legislative project. An environmental review to streamline the EAW process has been completed and the MPCA has changed the EAW policy for landfills. The final report is available on the EPA webpage. Morris will meet with the MPCA about the policy changes and will update the group at future meetings.

Terry Soderberg, St. Louis County gave a PowerPoint presentation on the CRT electronics processing facility in Janesville, Wisconsin. Soderberg provided background information on e-waste collections and processing to the group. St. Louis County has been contracting with CRT Processing since August, 2007. As of July 1, 2009, St. Louis County no longer receives payments for the electronics. CRT Processing pays for all the transportation costs and also provides the boxes and pallets needed for shipping. St. Louis County estimates the recycling and transportation savings to be around \$120,000 per year. As of January 1, 2010, CRT Processing, Inc. has changed their name to Universal Recycling Technologies (URT).

Heidi Ringhofer and Brandon Kohlts, WLSSD summarized the WLSSD Waste Composition Study. Handouts with the waste sort data results were given to the group. WLSSD will be conducting additional waste sorts in 2010 and will compile and present the results to the group.

## **Items by Counties and WLSSD -**

Crow Wing – A gas project handout was given to the group. Crow Wing County will be selling carbon credits from the active gas system installed last year. Staff will be compiling data from the flare system. The landfill gas is being used to heat two maintenance buildings at the landfill. Collection efficiencies are currently at 90%.

Koochiching – The plasma gasification feasibility study is nearly completed. The County has received a grant of \$2.5 million from the Department of Energy and \$2.5 million in matched funding from the State of Minnesota to continue with this project.

St. Louis – The Department has partnered with Iron Range Youth in Action (IRYA) to expand recycling activities in schools within the service area. The goal is to make a significant improvement in school recycling. Staff will give a presentation on school recycling program improvements at an upcoming meeting.

WLSSD – The District has an arrangement with St. Louis County Sheriff Department to hold additional pharmaceutical collection days. The goal is to make the program sustainable in 2010.

**Scheduling Next Meeting** – The next NEWAC meeting has tentatively been scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am at Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, Duluth.

## **Adjourn**

Upon motion by Commissioner Martinson, and second by Commissioner Sve, the meeting was adjourned.